

## NEW PUBLICATIONS FOCUS ON PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS, RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

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The Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR) has released two new brochures: one with important information for people with criminal records, and another that discusses religious accommodations.

***Employment and Housing Facts for People with Criminal Records*** uses a question and answer format to discuss the laws that impact people's search for employment and housing. It also explains how to restore voting rights lost after a felony conviction, and provides a list of legal resources for further assistance.

SOCR also has produced a referral card listing organizations in the Seattle area that provide assistance to people with criminal records.

***Religious Accommodations in Employment and Housing*** uses questions and answers to explore situations that arise involving people's religious practices. Here's one example:

**Question:** My apartment complex has a community room for special events and parties. We wanted to reserve the room for a small Bible study group, but my landlord wouldn't allow it. Later, our neighbor reserved the room for a birthday party. What can we do?

**Answer:** Your landlord cannot discriminate against you simply based on your religion or religious practices. A landlord can decide that a community room may not be used for any private purposes. If the room is available to tenants for private activities, all tenants must be granted the same privileges, including use for religious purposes. If your landlord refuses to allow this, contact the Seattle Office for Civil Rights to explore your options under the law.

Both brochures are available in the Publications section of our website at [www.seattle.gov/civilrights](http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights). If you have any questions or to request copies of any of these publications, please contact Brenda Anibarro at 206-684-4514 or by e-mail at [Brenda.Anibarro@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Brenda.Anibarro@Seattle.Gov).

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